THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

ROGER W. SCHMITZ

Serial No.:

10/698,751

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Examiner:

Group Art Unit:

Docket No.

17310-293479

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I CERTIFY THAT, ON DECEMBER 11, 2003, THIS PAPER IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

Kathleen B. Lee

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty imposed by 37 C.F.R. 1.56, and in accordance with C.F.R. sections 1.97 et. seq., the materials enclosed herewith are brought to the attention of the Examiner as possibly being of interest in connection with the above-identified patent application. Consideration of each of the documents listed on the attached 1449 form(s) is respectfully requested. The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is construed to be, prior art to the present application. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, Applicants further request that a copy of the 1449 form(s), marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next Official Communication.

Copies of the listed U.S. Patent documents have been omitted in accordance with the waiver of requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(i) by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

No fee is deemed necessary for the entry of this Information Disclosure Statement. Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 06-0029 and notify us of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: December 11, 2003

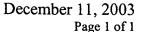
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612/766-8578





Atty. Docket No. U.S. Department of Commerce Serial No. Patent and Trademark Office 10/698,751 17310-293479 Applicant INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT ROGER W. SCHMITZ Filing Date Group October 31, 2003 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Filing Date Examiner Document Date Name Class Subclass MM/DD/YY Initial Number If Appropriate 10/07/75 3,910,701 Henderson et al. 5,879,294 03/09/99 Anderson et al. 09/26/00 6,124,937 Mittenzwey et al. 6,172,743 01/09/01 Kley et al. FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Document Date Country Class Subclass Translation Name MM/DD/YY Yes/No Number OTHER PRIOR ART-NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

M2:20588551.01